GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:532
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002
LANDMINE ACCIDENTS
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army personnel and civilians died of landmines in various parts of the country;

(b) the factors responsible for such accidents; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to taken by the Government to avoid such accidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Number of Army Personnel killed due to landmines in various parts of the country for the period from 1st January 2001to 13th November 2002 is as under:-

Officers	2
Junior Commissioned Officers	7
Other Ranks	60
Total	69

Casualty figures for the latter part of 2002 may vary on reconfirmation by Army Headquarters.

Details of civilian casualties are being collected.

(b) The reasons for these accidents are human error, defective mines and fuzes, stray cattle entering the minefields and adverse/extreme vagaries of terrain and climate.

(c) Precautionary steps taken to obviate such mine accidents include stringent quality control of mines and fuzes, destruction and replacement of stocks of older vintage and providing better on-the-job training to troops employed in mine laying activities.